of Asom (ULFA) leaders are carrying out business activities in Bangladesh. Inputs also suggest that ULFA has been using the territory of Bangladesh to procure and smuggle arms/ explosives into India.

(c) and (d) The Government has regularly taken up, with Government of Bangladesh, India's security concerns including activities of Indian insurgent Groups (IIGs) and smuggling or arms through Bangladesh territory. The Government of Bangladesh has consistently maintained and assured that its territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India. The matter continues to be regularly taken up with Bangladesh during bilateral talks and interaction at various levels. However, information about the specific action taken by the Bangladesh authorities is not available.

Besides, the Government has taken up various measures to control cross-border terrorism, which *inter-alia* include strengthening of Border Security Force and equipping them with modern and sophisticated/gazettes; reduction in gaps between Border Outposts; intensification of patrolling and a comprehensive programme of construction of border roads and border fencing/flood lights, etc. Security Forces have been continuing sustained Counter Insurgency (CI) Operations against the militant outfit in Assam. Due to sustained CI operations 759 cadres of various militant outfits including ULFA were arrested/killed/surrendered in the State of Assam in the year, 2007. In the current year (upto 31.3.2008), 293 cadres of various militant outfits have been neutralized.

(e) Out of sanctioned 399.06 km of border fence in Meghalaya sector, 378.25 km has already been completed. The work on the remaining fence has been held up since March, 2007 due to some issues raised by the Government of Meghalaya. Efforts are being made on a regular basis to expedite the completion of fencing.

Report on attack on Churches in Orissa

2540. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has received a report from National Commission on Minorities on the recent attacks on Churches in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for the attack was quota politics; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has submitted a report after visiting Orissa from 6th to 8th January, 2008 in which it has held that several factors were at work and converged together to create tension and violence which started on 24th December, 2007 and continued until 27th December, 2007. The NCM has held, *inter-alia*, the following responsible for the violence in Orissa.

(i) The long simmering Kondh-Pana conflict was in part responsible for the agitation and violence. A section of Panas who are Christians, have been seeking inclusion in the ST category, which would entitle them to the benefits of reservation. However,

the Kui group, who are in the ST category, have been resisting this demand on the ground that they were ethnically different from the Panas.

(ii) Anti-conversion campaign conducted by some organizations created an atmosphere of prejudice and suspicion against the Christian community/organizations.

Decision on creation of Telangana State

2541. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has so far taken any decision for creation of a separate Telangana State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for an early decision by Government on Statehood for Telangana in national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter requires consultations with a view to forge a concensus. On the basis of consensus the decision in this respect will be taken.

Visas to Sikh NRIs

2542. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the existing policy of not giving visas to the Sikh NRIs who took part in protests during army attack on Golden Temple in 1984;

(b) how many people are in that list who are still being considered not suitable to be granted visa, the figure-wise and country-wise details thereof;

(c) how many applications for grant of visa under this category are pending in each country; and

(d) whether Government will have discussions with Sikh Members of Parliament on this issue in the Session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Representation have been received regarding problems being faced by Sikh NRIs in getting visas. The information in this regard is being collected and the matter will be duly examined.

Central funds under MPF to Gujarat

2543. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: